

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1955

To prevent homegrown terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2007

Ms. HARMAN (for herself and Mr. REICHERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prevent homegrown terrorism, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Homegrown Terrorism
5 Prevention Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREVENTION OF HOMEGROWN TERRORISM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VIII of the Homeland Secu-
8 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 361 et seq.) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following new subtitle:

1 **“Subtitle J—Prevention of**
2 **Homegrown Terrorism**

3 **“SEC. 899A. DEFINITIONS.**

4 “For purposes of this subtitle:

5 “(1) **HOMEGROWN TERRORISM.**—The term
6 ‘homegrown terrorism’ means the use, planned use,
7 or threatened use, of force or violence by a group or
8 individual born, raised, or based and operating pri-
9 marily within the United States or any possession of
10 the United States to intimidate or coerce the United
11 States government, the civilian population of the
12 United States, or any segment thereof, in further-
13 ance of political or social objectives.

14 “(2) **RADICALIZATION.**—The term
15 ‘radicalization’ means the process of adopting or
16 promoting an extremist belief system for the purpose
17 of facilitating ideologically-based violence to advance
18 political, religious, or social change.

19 “(3) **IDEOLOGICALLY-BASED VIOLENCE.**—The
20 term ‘ideologically-based violence’ means the use,
21 planned use, or threatened use of force or violence
22 by a group or individual to promote the group or in-
23 dividual’s political, religious, or social beliefs.

24 **“SEC. 899B. FINDINGS.**

25 “The Congress finds the following:

1 “(1) The development and implementation of
2 methods and processes that can be utilized to pre-
3 vent homegrown terrorism in the United States is
4 critical to combating domestic terrorism.

5 “(2) The promotion of ideologically-based vio-
6 lence and homegrown terrorism exists in the United
7 States and poses a threat to homeland security.

8 “(3) The Internet has aided in facilitating ideo-
9 logically-based violence and the homegrown ter-
10 rorism process in the United States by providing ac-
11 cess to broad and constant streams of terrorist-re-
12 lated propaganda to United States citizens.

13 “(4) While the United States must continue its
14 vigilant efforts to combat international terrorism, it
15 must also strengthen efforts to combat the threat
16 posed by homegrown terrorists based and operating
17 within the United States.

18 “(5) Understanding the motivational factors
19 that lead to homegrown terrorism is a vital step to-
20 ward eradicating these threats in the United States.

21 “(6) The potential rise of self radicalized, unaf-
22 filiated terrorists domestically cannot be easily pre-
23 vented through traditional Federal intelligence or
24 law enforcement efforts, and requires the incorpora-
25 tion of State and local solutions.

1 “(7) Individuals prone to ideologically-based vi-
2 olence span all races, ethnicities, and religious be-
3 liefs, and individuals should not be targeted based
4 solely on race, ethnicity, or religion.

5 “(8) Any measure taken to prevent ideologi-
6 cally-based violence and homegrown terrorism in the
7 United States should not violate the constitutional
8 rights, civil rights and civil liberties of United States
9 citizens and lawful permanent residents.

10 “(9) Certain governments, including the United
11 Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have significant ex-
12 perience with homegrown terrorism and the United
13 States can benefit from lessons learned by those na-
14 tions.

15 **“SEC. 899C. GRANT PROGRAM TO PREVENT IDEOLOGI-**
16 **CALLY-BASED VIOLENCE AND HOMEGROWN**
17 **TERRORISM IN THE UNITED STATES.**

18 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the requirements
19 of this section, the Secretary shall establish a grant pro-
20 gram to prevent radicalization and homegrown terrorism
21 in the United States.

22 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
23 award grants to States to enhance homeland security by
24 preventing radicalization and homegrown terrorism in at-
25 risk populations, as determined by the Secretary.

1 “(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grant program
2 is to prevent, disrupt, and mitigate the effects of
3 radicalization and prevent ideologically-based violence and
4 homegrown terrorism in the United States.

5 “(d) GRANT ELIGIBILITY.—Any State shall be eligi-
6 ble to apply for a grant under the program referred to
7 in paragraph (a).

8 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under this
9 section shall be used by the States to award to agencies
10 and organizations, including but not limited to, social serv-
11 ices agencies, community-based groups, educational insti-
12 tutions and non-governmental organizations as sub-grant-
13 ees to address radicalization and homegrown terrorism
14 by—

15 “(1) developing best practices, standards and
16 protocols to conduct outreach to various populations
17 that are at-risk for radicalization and homegrown
18 terrorism;

19 “(2) assisting with educational outreach, social
20 services, and integration into society;

21 “(3) program planning and management and
22 strategy formulation and strategic planning;

23 “(4) promote civic engagement and community
24 outreach programs;

1 “(5) any other uses determined by the Sec-
2 retary to be necessary to prevent radicalization and
3 homegrown terrorism.

4 “(f) PROHIBITED USES.—Funds provided as a grant
5 may not be used—

6 “(1) for law enforcement activities, except for
7 programs that include outreach activities;

8 “(2) to supplant State or local funds;

9 “(3) to construct buildings or other physical fa-
10 cilities;

11 “(4) to acquire land; or

12 “(5) for any State or local government cost-
13 sharing contribution.

14 “(g) APPLICATION FOR GRANT.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may apply for a
16 grant under this subsection by submitting to the
17 Secretary an application detailing how requested
18 funds would be used to achieve the purpose stated
19 herein and containing such other information the
20 Secretary may reasonably require.

21 “(2) DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS AND
22 AWARDS.—All applications for grants must be sub-
23 mitted at such time as the Secretary may reasonably
24 require for the fiscal year for which they are sub-
25 mitted. The Secretary shall award grants pursuant

1 to all approved applications for such fiscal year as
2 soon as practicable, but not later than March 1 of
3 such year.

4 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—All funds
5 awarded by the Secretary in a fiscal year shall be
6 available for obligation through the end of the subse-
7 quent fiscal year.

8 “(4) MINIMUM CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—
9 The Secretary shall require that each State include
10 in its application, at a minimum—

11 “(A) the purpose for which the applicant
12 seeks grant funds and the reason why the appli-
13 cant needs the grant to meet the capabilities for
14 preventing radicalization and homegrown ter-
15 rorism within the State;

16 “(B) a description of how the allocation of
17 grant funding proposed in the application would
18 assist in fulfilling the capabilities for preventing
19 radicalization and homegrown terrorism;

20 “(C) a description of how the State plans
21 to allocate the grant funds to local governments
22 and Indian tribes;

23 “(D) identification of the subgrantees that
24 will expend grant funds; and

1 “(E) a capital budget showing how the ap-
2 plicant intends to allocate and expend the cov-
3 ered grant funds.

4 “(h) PRIORITIZATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall evalu-
6 ate and annually prioritize all pending applications
7 for grants based upon the risk and degree to which
8 they would, by achieving, maintaining, or enhancing
9 the capabilities of the applicants on a nationwide
10 basis, mitigate the threat of radicalization and
11 homegrown terrorism.

12 “(2) BASIS.—Such evaluation and prioritization
13 shall be based upon—

14 “(A) the most current relevant information
15 available, including, but not limited to threat
16 assessments generated by the Department of
17 Homeland Security Office of Intelligence Anal-
18 ysis, the Department of Homeland Security Of-
19 fice of Strategic Plans Radicalization and En-
20 gagement Working Group, and products gen-
21 erated by the Center for Excellence for the
22 Study of Radicalization and Homegrown Ter-
23 rorism established under section 899C;

24 “(B) criteria, which shall be made publicly
25 available and reported to Congress, that identi-

1 fies the characteristics, qualities, and standards
2 that groups or organizations should meet in
3 order to serve as partners with the United
4 States Government in fulfilling the purpose of
5 the grant program; and

6 “(C) information contained within State
7 applications for grants, including sub-grantees
8 identified in such applications.

9 “(3) REQUIREMENT FOR SUB-GRANTEES TO
10 MEET CRITERIA.—The Secretary may deny a grant
11 under this section to any State that submits a grant
12 application that identifies a sub-grantee that does
13 not meet the criteria referred to in paragraph
14 (2)(B).

15 “(4) PENALTIES FOR USING NON-APPROVED OR
16 NON-DISCLOSED SUB-GRANTEES.—Any State that
17 allows grant funds to be used by a subgrantee that
18 has not been disclosed to and previously approved by
19 the Secretary, shall be ineligible for any further
20 grant funds under this section for two fiscal years.

21 “(i) CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF
22 GRANT FUNDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Any State
23 that receives a grant shall certify to the Secretary, that
24 the State has made grant funds available for expenditure
25 by local governments and other local groups.

1 “(j) REPORT ON SPENDING.—Each recipient of a
2 grant under this section shall annually submit a report
3 to the Secretary not later than 60 days after the end of
4 each Federal fiscal year that contains—

5 “(1) an accounting of the amount of State and
6 local government funds spent on activities aimed at
7 preventing radicalization and homegrown terrorism;

8 “(2) an accounting of the administrative costs
9 incurred by sub-grantees;

10 “(3) information regarding the use of grant
11 funds by the sub-grantees as required by the Sec-
12 retary; and

13 “(4) progress of the recipient and sub-grantees
14 in achieving the purpose of the grant program.

15 “(k) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AC-
16 CESS TO INFORMATION.—Each recipient of grant funds
17 under this section and the Department shall provide the
18 Government Accountability Office with full access to infor-
19 mation regarding the activities carried out under this sec-
20 tion.

21 “(l) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
22 submit an annual report to Congress that provides—

23 “(1) an evaluation of how states and local gov-
24 ernments are making progress in achieving the pur-
25 pose of the grant program;

1 “(2) the total amount of funds provided to the
2 States as grants under this section during the pre-
3 ceding year; and

4 “(3) an accounting of how such amounts were
5 expended.

6 **“SEC. 899D. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE STUDY OF**
7 **RADICALIZATION AND HOMEGROWN TER-**
8 **RORISM IN THE UNITED STATES.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland
10 Security shall establish or designate a university-based
11 Center of Excellence for the Study of Radicalization and
12 Homegrown Terrorism in the United States (hereinafter
13 referred to as ‘Center’) following the merit-review pro-
14 cesses and procedures and other limitations that have been
15 previously established for selecting and supporting Univer-
16 sity Programs Centers of Excellence. The Center shall as-
17 sist Federal, State, local and tribal homeland security offi-
18 cials through training, education, and research in pre-
19 venting radicalization and homegrown terrorism in the
20 United States. In carrying out this section, the Secretary
21 may choose to either create a new Center designed exclu-
22 sively for the purpose stated herein or identify and expand
23 an existing Department of Homeland Security Center of
24 Excellence so that a working group is exclusively des-

1 ignated within the existing Center of Excellence to achieve
2 the purpose set forth in subsection (b).

3 “(b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Center
4 to study the social, criminal, political, psychological, and
5 economic roots of radicalization and homegrown terrorism
6 in the United States and methods that can be utilized by
7 Federal, State, local, and tribal homeland security officials
8 to mitigate radicalization and homegrown terrorism.

9 “(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this section, the
10 Center shall—

11 “(1) contribute to the establishment of training,
12 written materials, information, analytical assistance
13 and professional resources to aid in combating
14 radicalization and homegrown terrorism;

15 “(2) utilize theories, methods and data from the
16 social and behavioral sciences to better understand
17 the origins, dynamics, and social and psychological
18 aspects of radicalization and homegrown terrorism;

19 “(3) conduct research on the motivational fac-
20 tors that lead to radicalization and homegrown ter-
21 rorism; and

22 “(4) coordinate with other academic institutions
23 studying the effects of radicalization and homegrown
24 terrorism where appropriate.

1 **“SEC. 899E. PREVENTING RADICALIZATION AND HOME-**
2 **GROWN TERRORISM THROUGH INTER-**
3 **NATIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.**

4 “(a) INTERNATIONAL EFFORT.—The Secretary shall,
5 in cooperation with the Department of State and other
6 Federal Government entities, as appropriate, conduct a
7 survey of methodologies implemented by foreign nations
8 to prevent radicalization and homegrown terrorism in
9 their respective nations.

10 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that meth-
11 odologies are not impermissible under the Constitution,
12 the Secretary shall use the results of the survey as an aid
13 in developing a national policy in the United States on
14 addressing radicalization and homegrown terrorism.

15 “(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
16 submit a report to Congress that provides—

17 “(1) a brief description of the foreign partners
18 participating in the survey; and

19 “(2) a description of lessons learned from the
20 results of the survey and recommendations imple-
21 mented through this international outreach.

1 **“SEC. 899F. PROTECTING CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIB-**
2 **ERTIES WHILE PREVENTING IDEOLOGI-**
3 **CALLY-BASED VIOLENCE AND HOMETGROWN**
4 **TERRORISM.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Homeland
6 Security’s efforts to prevent ideologically-based violence
7 and homegrown terrorism as described herein shall not
8 violate the constitutional rights, civil rights, and civil lib-
9 erties of United States citizens and lawful permanent resi-
10 dents.

11 “(b) COMMITMENT TO RACIAL NEUTRALITY.—The
12 Secretary shall ensure that the activities and operations
13 of the entities created by this subtitle are in compliance
14 with the Department of Homeland Security’s commitment
15 to racial neutrality issued in an Department-wide Memo-
16 randum on June 1, 2004.

17 “(c) AUDITING MECHANISM.—The Civil Rights and
18 Civil Liberties Officer of the Department of Homeland Se-
19 curity will develop and implement an auditing mechanism
20 to ensure that compliance with this subtitle does not result
21 in a disproportionate impact, without a rational basis, on
22 any particular race, ethnicity, or religion and include with-
23 in its annual report to Congress required under section
24 705.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting at the
3 end of the items relating to title VIII the following:

“Subtitle J—Prevention of Homegrown Terrorism

“Sec. 899A. Definitions.

“Sec. 899B. Findings.

“Sec. 899C. Grant program to prevent ideologically-based violence and home-
grown terrorism in the United States.

“Sec. 899D. Center of Excellence for the Study of Radicalization and Home-
grown Terrorism in the United States.

“Sec. 899E. Preventing radicalization and homegrown terrorism through inter-
national cooperative efforts.

“Sec. 899F. Protecting civil rights and civil liberties while preventing ideologi-
cally-based violence and homegrown terrorism.”.

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